



KEENELAND 

Power

Picks Tip Sheet

Race Day Date	Friday April 3, 2026
Picks By	Paul Halloran

Race-Day Overview

I hate winter and it was a brutal one in the Northeast this year. Cold. Snow. Cold. More snow. You get the picture. But we made it through and, alas, spring has sprung. And there is no better sign of that than the start of the Keeneland Spring Meet. In store are 15 glorious days of racing over three weeks at truly one of the world's greatest racetracks.

Today is Opening Day at Keeneland – and at Fenway Park for my beloved, currently bumbling, Red Sox – and we get a very solid 10-race card. The feature is the Ashland, one of the last three 100-point Kentucky Oaks preps (the Gazelle at AQU and Santa Anita Oaks are Saturday). Undefeated Zany will be a heavy favorite in what is a tough field. There are three other stakes and four turf races.

For wagering purposes, note that Pick 3s at Keeneland are now \$1 minimum and there will be a \$3 minimum P3 on the last three races of the day with a player-friendly 15% takeout. Jim Goodman is like a fine wine; he gets better with age. Other 15% takeout wagers are DDs, the \$3 Turf P3 and the P5s.

Without Further Ado – he runs in the Bluegrass Saturday - let's get to this Opening Day card.

Today's Picks

***For information on how to read an "ABC Grid" and ticket construction, please refer to our podcast website, hhhracingpodcast.com, and go to the "Power Picks" section...a video explanation is also available on the page.*

Go to the next page for our analysis of the races.....Good Luck!

ABC Grid - Post Time 1 p.m. EST

The Stars/Rating is based on 1-5 and represents the level of confidence in our "A" column, with 5 the highest.

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Cost	Stars/Rating
1	6	5,8	2,4	6	\$0.50 P5	\$72	4
2	5,11	4	8,9,12	4,5,11	-	-	3
3	8,9	2,3	4	2,8,9	-	-	3
4	3,5	8,9,11	4,10,12	3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12	-	-	2
5	2,3	6	7	2,3	-	-	4
6	1,8	9	5,7	1,8	\$0.50 P5	\$96	4
7	3,7	2,5		3,7	-	-	4
8	2,3	1,7	8,10	1,2,3,7	-	-	3
9	3,4	2	7	2,3,4	-	-	4
10	1,10	2,4	7,12	1,2,4,10	-	-	3

Top 3 Selections

Race	1st	2nd	3rd
1	6 - Waggley	8 - Suspicions	5 - Bourbon Town
2	11 - N Z Holly	5 - Miss Call	4 - Edey
3	8 - Spiced Up	2 - Our Starry Night	9 - Donut God
4	3 - Hypnotica	5 - Only Me	8 - Lady Diversity
5	3 - Arctic Beast	6 - Carson Street	7 - Oscar's Hope
6	8 - Mount Horeb	1 - Without	9 - Sumood
7	3 - Sneaky Good	7 - A Fine Chardonnay	5 - Baracca
8	2 - Vasy	3 - Noble Dynasty	1 - Proton
9	3 - Zany	4 - French Friction	2 - Percy's Bar
10	10 - Democracy Defender	1 - Prize Pick	4 - Lemon's Law

Late P5 Strategy/Analysis (R6 - 10)

#3 Zany will be a popular single in race 9 and, while I picked her on top, I don't think she has to win. She was green down the stretch in her last, which is excusable considering it was only her third start, but there will be less margin for error today. She will have to deal with the speedy **#4 French Friction** to her right and Grade 1 winner **#2 Percy's Bar** to her left. The Transylvania Stakes in Race 8 is no bargain with at least four very possible winners. I will try to get by going 2x2 to start the sequence and then watch the ticket expand like my waist line after eating the phenomenal bread pudding at Keeneland.

\$3 All-Turf Pick 3 ABC Grid

Race	A	B	C	Caveman Picks	Caveman Bet	Caveman Cost
6	1,8	9	5,7	1,8	\$3 P3	\$72
8	2,3	1,7	10	1,2,3	-	-
10	1,10	2,4	7,12	1,2,4,10	-	-

\$3 All-Turf P3 Strategy/Analysis - (R5, R7, R9)

Race 6 becomes perhaps the most important on the card as it kicks off the late P5 and the Turf P3. In both cases, I think you have to try to go thin to start because you will need more coverage as you progress. I like the **#8 Mount Horeb** as a price (6-1 ML) in the sixth but will also use the 9-5 ML favorite **#1 Without**. As previously mentioned, the Transylvania is tricky, but with a \$3 minimum you have to draw the line somewhere so I'll limit my caveman to a Lawrence Welk-inspired 1-2-3. I'd like to be alive to at least four horses in the finale, a competitive MSW.

Paul's Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
3	8	Spiced Up	4-1	4	\$20 Win #8 / \$5 EX box 8-9
Notes:					
To me this is a very interesting betting race, due to the fact that neither the ML favorite, #4 Whatchatalkinabout , nor the second choice, #3 Camp Hale , has ever run on turf. Whatchatalkinabout has loads of class, having run third in the Phoenix at KEE last fall and taking a shot in the BC Sprint, where he was over his head. If the grass agrees with him he could be tough, but between that and the 5-month layoff, I'm looking elsewhere. #8 Spiced Up is on a 3-race losing streak and was terrible last time, but has a race in his PPs – when he won the G3 Mahony at Saratoga last summer and earned a 94 Beyer – that fits very well here. The concern is that he could be too far back in the 5½-furlong dash, but in a race where almost half the field has never won on turf, I'll go with the horse who has the fastest turf figure for formidable connections: Juddmonte/Mott/Junior.					

Most Likely Winner of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
1	6	Waggley	7-5	4	\$30 DD 6-5, \$10 DD 6-11

Notes:

Call this a KISS (Keep it Simple Stupid) pick, and 7-5 might be dreaming, but in a 4½-furlong MSW for 2-year-olds at the Keeneland Spring Meet, I'll go with Wesley Ward and **#6 Wagglely**. Over the last five years, with 2YO FTS in dirt sprints at KEE, Ward is winning at a Artemis-like 42 percent. And, yes, I'm aware he also has the second choice in **#8 Suspicions** (3-1 ML) – whom Ward owns and he cost as much as Wagglely (\$200K). But between Joel Rosario taking the mount on Wagglely (no disrespect to Eclipse-winning apprentice Pietro Moran on Suspicions) and Wagglely having one more work, at 4 furlongs, with Suspicions not having been timed past 3F, it looks as if Ward is tipping his hand and will be happy running 1-2 with this one on top. If you're looking for a pedigree price play underneath, and certainly a hunch play for me, **#4 Autism Honor G** is the only horse other than Wagglely who is out of a dam who has foaled more than one winner.

Longshot Play of the Day

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
2	11	N Z Holly	12-1	3	\$10 Win, \$20 Place #11

Notes:

Timeform says this 7-furlong dirt sprint will have a fast pace and that looks to be the case, so why not go with a deep closer ridden by the incomparable Flavien Prat. **#11 N Z Holly** was outrun early in his last start at Oaklawn, but was closing hard late and you have to think the extra furlong will help today. That OP allowance has been somewhat productive from a Beyer perspective, with four horses running back and improving their number by an average of 6 points. I like the outside post at 7F and if Prat can have this daughter of Yaupon (25% win sire with dirt sprinters) within striking distance at the eighth pole, she has a shot.

Other Price/Spot Play(s)

** Price / Spot Plays are not usually the favorites, but horses we like that will provide some value (hopefully 5-2 or higher in general). The "Stars" rating is 1 – 5.*

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
6	8	Mount Horeb	6-1	4	\$25 Win #6

Notes:

Prat again? Oui, oui. This is a value play with **#1 Without** for Graham Motion and Johnny V figuring to be under 2-1 at post time. **#8 Mount Horeb** should be twice if not three times the odds and I think has almost as good a chance to win. Throw out the last two synthetic tries at Turfway and you have a horse that has done everything but win on turf – three seconds and a third with ultraconsistent mid-80s Beyers. With the #1 cutting back from 11 furlongs to this 1⅛-mile affair and Mount Horeb having shown in the past he can be more forward (10/25/25 at KEE), I'm looking for my favorite Frenchman to get the jump here and win at a decent number.

Race #	Horse #	Horse Name	Odds	Stars	Bet(s)
10	10	Democracy Defender	4-1	3	\$20 WP \$10

Notes:

I thought **#10 Democracy Defender** ran a good race with a very bad trip last time, squeezed slightly at the start and forced to check hard heading into the far turn after making a big inside move on the backstretch. Daniel Centeno took him wide in the stretch and he was running late, but there was no catching Instability, a good-looking Irish-bred trained by Chad Brown. I think it's safe to predict a better journey under Irad today and he should have firmer footing than at Tampa. It's hard to figure who will go favored here, but safe to say whoever it is he likely won't be below 3-1. Let's have Irad bring it home in the nightcap, something he has done with regularity over the years.

Favorite Vertical/Horizontal Plays Not Included in Price/Spot Play Bets

Race #	Bet Type	Selections	Cost
3	\$1 Tri	4,8,9 / 2 / all 4,8,9 / all / 2	\$42
4	\$10 DD	3,5 / 2,3	\$40
9	\$10 DD	3,4 / 1, 10	\$40

**Good luck with all your wagers.... CRUSH YOUR
BETS!!!**

